



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes November 18, 2020**  
**Webex**



**I. Call Meeting to Order**

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer, David Demmer, Britt Rohrbaugh, Jenny Peterson, Barb Darland, Natalie Chin, Noah Kramer, Jill Joyce, City Council Liaison – Arik Forsman.

Not Present: David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison).

**III. Approval of October 14 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Darland motioned for approval of the October 14 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Demmer. Unanimously approved.

**IV. Presentations**

**A. Meet Senior Parks Planner, Cliff Knettel (Informational) – Jess Peterson, Manager**

**B. Natural Resource Management Plan (Informational) – Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator**

Demmer highlighted the importance of having a natural resource management plan with how much green space Duluth has.

Jenny Peterson questioned how the Natural Resources Coordinator is funded. Desotelle indicated the Parks Fund and from the Property and Facilities Management Division.

**C. Lincoln Park Update (Informational) – Jess Peterson, Manager**

Demmer questioned if there are any processes with the change in Lincoln Park Drive containing some redesigned elements. Jess Peterson Stated the commission voted to remove the drive, and just have a trail. Shared the City is working with NPS to find out what public engagement needs to occur.

Breeuwer questioned why the road was being kept. Jim Filby Williams shared the federal government requires a Section 106 process, where it minimizes harm to cultural resources. Indicated the NPS challenged the City to look at fresh solutions for the road to stay in place.

Joyce questioned if different scenarios were looked at in regards to cost, such as removing the road, shortening the road, etc. Jess Peterson indicated the repairs to the road will extend the lifespan.

**V. Commissioner Committees**

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Monday, November 23 at noon via Webex  
Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [Jess Peterson, Alicia Watts, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

Public Golf Committee – Tuesday, December 15 at 5 p.m., virtual meeting on Webex  
David Demmer, Jenny Peterson, Noah Kramer [Jess Peterson, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]



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- VI. **Commissioner & Liaison Reports**
- VII. **New Business**
- VIII. **Old Business**

**A. Golf Budgeting and Planning Timeline (Informational) – Jim Filby Williams, Director and Jess Peterson, Manager**

Crosby questioned why the minimal maintenance option at Lester would be an option, if Lester is potentially going to be closed. Jess Peterson shared it is unknown if this will be a long term scenario.

Jenny Peterson questioned where public golf funds came from previously. Jess Peterson stated the General Fund accepted the debt in hopes there would be a profit in the future, but this has not been the case. Stated the Finance Department will no longer accept the further debt. Jenny Peterson questioned why this decision was suddenly made. Jim Filby Williams indicated the City subsidized golf that is approaching 3 million dollars, which has taken away from streets and utilities. Shared the City was hopeful that Duluth public golf would make revenues, but after two decades, the City has significant losses.

**XIII. Division Report**

Demmer highlighted the Halloween hike along Tischer creek. Stated his kids had a great time looking for the photos.

**Public Comment**

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

**XIV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9 via Webex